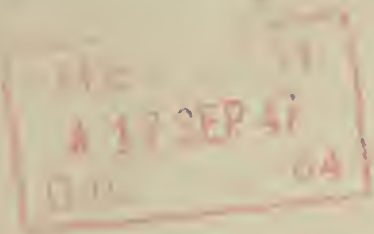


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NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

1946.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

K. Knowles F.R.C.S.

to which is appended the Report

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

E.W. Bushell, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
C.S.I.B.



Council Offices,
Nantwich Urban District Council,
Brookfield,
Nantwich,
Cheshire.



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NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Nantwich Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1946.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. 1,173 acres. Estimated population at mid-1946. 8,664.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to rate books. 2411.
Rateable value. £45,400. Sum represented by penny rate. £175/6/8d.

Nantwich is an ancient town situated in the south-west corner of Cheshire, and is a market town for a large and important agricultural area. The River Weaver and the Shropshire Union Canal pass through the district and in parts both form the boundary of the Urban Area.

Industrial enterprise exists mainly in the form of clothing manufacture and a tannery. There is scope for the establishment of light industries, road and rail communications being very convenient; by rail the town is served by the L. M. S. and G. W. R. main lines from Crewe to Shrewsbury and Wellington, and good roads radiate from the town to all parts of Cheshire, Shropshire, the Potteries, and North Wales.

Vital Statistics.

		Male.	Female.	Total.
<u>Live Births.</u>	Legitimate.	65.	65.	130.
	Illegitimate.	<u>2.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>6.</u>
	Total.	<u>67.</u>	<u>69.</u>	<u>136.</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 15.79.

<u>Still Births.</u>	Legitimate.	6.	4.	10.
	Illegitimate.	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	Total.	<u>6.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>10.</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 68.49.

<u>Deaths.</u>	Total deaths (including Inward Transfers.)	56.	54.	110.
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Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. 12.69.

Deaths from - Puerperal Sepsis. Nil. - Other Puerperal Causes. Nil.

Deaths of Infants (under one year of age.)

Legitimate.	Males	2.	Females	3.	
Illegitimate.	Males	—	Females	1.	Total. 6.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age : -

All Infants per 1,000 live births.	44.11
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	38.46
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	166.66

Deaths from - Cancer (all ages). 19. - Whooping Cough. Nil.
- Measles (all ages) 1. - Diarrhoea (under 2 years). 3.
- Tuberculosis (Respiratory - all ages). 3.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

The extent of unemployment in the district during the year was negligible.

SECTION B.

1. General provision of Health Services for the area.

1. Medical Officer of Health. (Part time). K. Knowles. F.R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat
and Food Inspector. (Full time). E.W. Bushell, M.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Engineer and Surveyor. (Full time). E.H. Bailey. F.R.I.C.S.
M.I.Mun.E., DIP.T.P. (Man)
A.M.T.P.I.

11a. Laboratory facilities.

Pathological specimens are submitted to

- (a) County Council Public Health Laboratory, Chester.
- (b) Evans Biological Institute, Runcorn.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Water samples for bacteriological and chemical examination are submitted to the **Public Health Laboratories, Manchester.**

Milk samples for biological and bacteriological examination are submitted to the **Pathological Department, Chester Royal Infirmary.**

b. Ambulance facilities.

Non-infectious and accident cases. The Urban and Rural District Councils of Nantwich maintain a joint service, which includes the Urban area; one motor vehicle is in operation, and is stationed in Nantwich.

Infectious cases. The Urban and Rural Joint Hospital Board maintains one motor vehicle which is stationed at the Isolation Hospital.

c. Nursing in the Home.

There are two trained Nurses in the district, one for maternity work and one for district work. These are controlled by a Committee, supported by voluntary subscriptions. A small charge is made to non-contributors requiring service.

d. Consultation and Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic is controlled by the County Council and a trained Health Visitor and School Nurse is in attendance.

The Venereal Disease Clinic at Herdman Street, Crewe, is maintained by the County, as also is an Orthopaedic and Tuberculosis Clinic at Crewe.

e. Hospitals in the District.

There is a County Council Public Assistance Institution and Hospital in the district and also a Cottage Hospital which is maintained by voluntary effort.

The Isolation Hospital, controlled by a Joint Board, serves the Urban and Rural Areas of Nantwich and has 41 beds; three diseases can be treated concurrently. An up-to-date steam disinfecting plant is in use. There is accommodation for smallpox cases from the Urban and Rural Areas at Ravensmoor.

f. Mortuary.

Apart from the mortuaries in connection with the hospitals in the district, a Public Mortuary is maintained by the Urban District Council and this is used by the Urban and Rural Authorities. The site of the present building lies on land to be developed for housing purposes and when necessary it is hoped to replace this with a modern well equipped mortuary on a suitable site.

SECTION C.

1. i. Water Supply.

The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following information in connection with the year 1946. On April 1st 1947 the district will be served by the newly formed Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board.

There is a sufficiency of water for the present needs of the existing population (drought conditions excepted), and the quality of the water is satisfactory. Chemical and bacteriological analyses are made frequently.

Most of the Urban district is supplied from Baddiley Waterworks; the water is pumped to Ravensmoor reservoir (capacity 250,000 gallons) gravitating from that point to the town. There is a constant supply and water is supplied direct to premises.

There are several dead-ends in the distribution system which will be connected through as soon as the labour is available for this purpose.

There is a slight plumbo-solvent action; according to the analyses this varies from nil to 0.7 per 1,000 gallons in 24 hours. Tin-lined lead pipes are used for house services. Occasionally there is a trace of action on aluminium and iron, but not enough to be stated numerically.

The water is treated on the 'Dual Coagulation' principle, the following chemicals being added - Sulphate of Alumina, Sodium Aluminate, Sodium Carbonate, and Hydrated Lime. Following treatment the water is passed through pressure filters and chlorinated.

An average of 220,000 gallons per day were supplied from the Baddiley source. The remaining portion of the district is supplied in bulk by the Nantwich Rural District Council from the Bearstone supply, amounting to 62,000 gallons per day.

The total daily consumption for the Urban District was 282,000 gallons which is equal to 32.6 gallons per head per day based on a population of 8,664.

ii. Sewage Disposal.

The Engineer and Surveyor has kindly supplied the following information.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Windy Arbour are modern and consist of Sedimentation Tanks, Filters, Humus Tanks, and Sludge Drying Beds. The effluent is discharged into the River Weaver.

All sewage is pumped to the works from Beam Bridge Pumping Station. The storm water is dealt with at Beam Bridge Pumping Station where the storm water tanks deal with all flows above 3 D.W.F. and discharge it to the River Weaver.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The River Weaver flows through the district and this, along with other minor watercourses, is kept under observation for the prevention of pollution.

3. 1. Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of the premises detailed by the Sanitary Inspector in his report the district is served by water closets.

ii. Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house refuse, trade refuse, and night-soil is controlled by the Surveyor, as also is street cleansing. Collection is by horse drawn vehicles and team labour, and disposal is by tipping.

iii. Public Baths.

The Open Air Brine Swimming Pool, owned and controlled by the Council, is open from May to September each year. The pool is 100 feet by 50 feet and is supplied with brine from the Council's Brine Well at the rear of the Town Hall. About 9 ozs. of brine is added per gallon of water. The pool is not heated, but the water is filtered and sterilized by the Chloramine process, being fed to the pool through a cascade.

Mixed bathing is allowed and dressing boxes for both sexes are provided; there are also cafe facilities.

Facilities are available for organised use of the Pool by school children and members of Youth Organisations.

- | | |
|---|--|
| iv. <u>Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.</u> | } These matters are
dealt with by
the Sanitary Inspector
in his report. |
| v. <u>Shops and Offices.</u> | |
| vi. <u>Moveable Dwelling and Camping Sites.</u> | |
| vii. <u>Eradication of Bugs.</u> | |
| viii. <u>Smoke Abatement.</u> | |

SECTION D.

Housing.

Seven "private enterprise" new houses were completed but there were no new permanent Council houses completed for occupation during the year. Twenty prefabricated bungalows of the Arcon Type were completed and occupied, and the site for thirty of the Aluminium type was prepared and delivery was awaited at the end of the year. Other sites were selected and in some cases were acquired for future housing development, and in one instance it was necessary to seek a Compulsory Purchase Order.

The necessity continues for a large number of new houses to rehouse persons in unfit houses, separating families and relieving overcrowding. The development of sites and the building of permanent brick houses was commenced during the year and one hopes to refer to a considerable number having been completed and occupied in the report for 1947.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food, Milk Supply, Meat and Other Foods.

These matters are fully covered in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.

1. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

The district was free from serious epidemic disease during the year; five diphtheria cases were notified and one was re-diagnosed upon admission to hospital; the four confirmed cases occurred in the Barony County Public Assistance Hospital and two were members of one family.

Ten specimens were examined for diphtheria and one for typhoid fever; one was positive for diphtheria and all others were negative.

The following notifications were received during the year : -

Disease.	Age Groups.										Total.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	
Sc. Fever.	-	-	-	2	2	5	4	3	-	-	16.
Ø Diphtheria.	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	5.
Wh. Cough	2	5	7	3	4	6	1	-	-	-	28.
Measles.	2	9	5	12	9	26	-	-	-	-	63.
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.
Totals	5	14	12	17	16	38	6	3	1	1	113.

Ø one re-diagnosed.

All the Scarlet fever and Diphtheria cases were removed to hospital.

There was one death arising from Measles.

The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme has continued during the year, treatment being carried out at the Council's expense by Private Practitioners; the County Council accepted responsibility for charges in connection with children under 5 years of age.

Number of children immunised during the year	- under 5 yrs.	94.
	- 5/15 years.	61.
	- Total.	155.

Estimated child population	- under 5 yrs.	660
	- 5/15 years	1150
	- Total.	1810.

Estimated number of children immunised.	- under 5 yrs.	232
	- 5/15 years.	881
	- Total.	1113

Percentage of children immunised.	- under 5 yrs.	35.1
	- 5/15 years	76.6
	- Total.	61.4

2.a. Prevention of Blindness.

There was no special action by the Local Authority during the year.

b. Tuberculosis.

New cases and mortality during 1946.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respir.		Non-respir.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
10-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35-45	% 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55-65	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	% 7	-	1	3	1	2	-	-
	% 7		4		3		-	

% including one case re-diagnosed and removed from register.

All deaths were notified cases.

Register of Cases.

	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases on register 1.1.46.	21.	13.	7.	11.	28.	24.
Cases notified for first time during year.	6.	-	1.	3.	7.	3.
Cases added on transfer from other districts.	1.	-	-	-	1.	-
Cases removed during year - died, removed from district etc.	3.	2.	-	1.	3.	3.
Cases on register 31.12.46.	25.	11.	8.	13.	33.	24.

There were 23 specimens examined at the County Public Health Laboratory, 1 being positive and 22 negative.

After death of a patient, or removal to sanatorium, bedding, rooms etc., were disinfected.

Yours faithfully,

K. Knowles, F.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1946.

To The Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure and honour to submit my report for the year 1946 for your information and consideration.

This is the first full year for which I have been your Sanitary Inspector and, although it has been one of increased activity in municipal affairs one cannot help at times feeling somewhat frustrated by circumstances which militate against improvement of environmental conditions. No matter in which direction one may turn with a hope of getting something done, requirements have to be modified or even suspended for the time being because this or that is in short supply or the labour is not available. Costs of building work are at a high level and to be reasonable one must sympathise with the conscientious property owner who would like to meet requirements and suggestions to the full, provided labour and materials are available, but finds that his considerably increased expenses cannot be balanced by increase in rents (other than for improvements). Property is likely to deteriorate more rapidly with extended neglect of maintenance repairs, and by the time these can be considered, free of the shadow of controls, there will be many more premises dangerously near the border between "capable" and "incapable" of being made fit for continued habitation at a reasonable cost.

The indication in my report last year that a fair amount of time must continue to be spent in the office to maintain administration and records has been fulfilled.

Having regard to the close concern of the Sanitary Officer in matters of environmental conditions and housing it was agreed that the registration and investigation of applications for Council Houses should lie mainly in my hands, with consultative arrangements between the Clerk and myself. The revision of the register and the setting up of a new system to operate the "Points" scheme was commenced towards the end of the year and a large amount of time is spent in interviewing applicants; I feel that the time taken in these interviews is well spent for the better feeling and understanding which it creates; it gives the applicant that assurance that there is some personal interest in his case and he is not just another number in the list and it helps many to realise the difficulties in providing accommodation and also that there are others whose need is as great if not greater. The provision of more houses continues to be a pressing priority and the "rationing" to be considered by Zonal Conferences, though a necessity to fair distribution, is yet another disappointment in these difficult times.

The amount of time devoted to interviews with property owners and contractors is quite considerable, and is I think worth while since it provides opportunity for discussing difficulties in practice and it enables each party to see the other point of view which is often difficult to express by correspondence.

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the opportunity of attending, as this Council's delegate, Conferences of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association and the Royal Sanitary Institute; also to record my appreciation of the cooperation of members and fellow officers of the Council during the year.

I submit the following information, under special headings, as to prevailing conditions and work done during the year.

I. VISITS MADE.

Dwellinghouses - Public Health Acts.	39.
- Housing Act.	2.
Reinspections - Public Health Acts.	152.
- Housing Act.	5.
Housing - Overcrowding.	9.
- Requisitioning.	25.
- Investigation of applications C.Hses.	187.
House Drainage.	123.
Dust Bins.	89.
Infectious Diseases - Primary.	39.
- Secondary.	13.
Factories.	18.
Verminous Premises.	12.
Food Premises - General.	29.
- Registered premises.	6.
Food Inspection.	55.
Dairies, Cowsheds.	31.
Appointments - Owners.	33.
- Contractors.	56.
Moveable Dwellings - Tents, Vans etc.	3.
Rodent Control.	72.
Keeping of Animals.	2.
Disinfections.	9.
Disinfestations.	4.
Drain tests - smoke.	3.
Courts, Passages.	4.
Pail Closets.	36.
Shops Act 1934.	7.
Offensive Trades.	1.
Offensive Accumulations.	4.
Ditches, Watercourses.	6.
Water Sampling.	3.
Substitution of W.C's. for pail closets.	33.
Licensed Premises.	7.
Places of Entertainment.	2.
Cesspools, Septic Tanks.	10.
Milk Sampling.	8.
Smoke Observations.	2.
Miscellaneous.	154.
Total.	1293.

II. NOTICES SERVED.

	Served.	Complied.
Public Health Acts. - Informal.	152.	88.
- Formal. Sect. 39, 1936 Act.	3.	3.
" 40. " "	2.	2.
" 45. " "	1.	1.
" 56. " "	1.	1.
" 75. " "	14.	14.
" 93. " "	3.	4.
Factory Act. - Informal.	5.	2.
Rats and Mice Destruction Act		
and Infestation Order. - Informal.	20.	7.
Food and Drugs Act 1938. - Informal.	2.	-.
Housing Act 1936. - Demolition Order.	1.	-.

Of the notices outstanding at the year end a considerable number are in hand by Contractors.

Complaints received and investigated. 115.

III. DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN NOTICES SERVED.

Defect.	Noted.	Remedied.
Rainwater Gutters - defective.	15.	4.
- insufficient.	-.	3.
Rainwater Downspouts - defective.	4.	2.
- Insufficient.	8.	3.
- ventilating drains.	2.	2.
Drains - choked.	9.	10.
- defective and/or insufficient.	22.	16.
Sewers - Private - choked.	4.	4.
Sink and/or Bath waste pipes - defective.	3.	-.
- insufficient.	5.	-.
- venting drain.	-.	1.
Dust Bins - defective.	29.	41.
- insufficient or absence of.	3.	2.
Water Closets - defective fittings.	8.	6.
- defective structures.	18.	11.
- dirty.	1.	-.
- miscellaneous matters.	10.	6.
Pail Closets - defective pails.	2.	-.
- defective structures.	12.	4.
- disused.	7.	7.
- requiring substitution of W.C.	16.	9.
House Roofs - defective.	34.	8.
Windows - defective frames.	10.	2.
- defective cords etc.	8.	1.
- defective sills.	2.	1.
Ventilation - insufficient.	4.	-.
- lack of.	1.	1.
Dirty conditions - yards.	1.	-.
Water Supply - Insufficient.	1.	-.
- not provided indoors.	7.	5.
- waste.	-.	1.
- defective supply pipes.	28.	33.
- well supply.	5.	5.
Fireplaces - defective.	12.	3.
- defective ovens.	2.	-.
- defective and/or choked flues	5.	3.
- miscellaneous defects.	1.	-.
Wallplaster - defective.	23.	4.
- damp.	34.	8.
Ceiling Plaster - defective.	19.	5.
Floors - defective paving.	9.	4.
- defective boards and timbers.	12.	1.
Brickwork and Pointing - defective.	8.	3.
Paving - Yards.	10.	5.
- Passages.	1.	1.
Sinks - absence of.	14.	7.
Offensive Accumulations.	4.	4.
Keeping of Animals - unsuitable midden.	-.	1.
- too near to dwellings.	-.	1.
- unsuitable drainage.	-.	1.
Verminous conditions - Bugs.	7.	7.
- Cockroaches.	1.	1.
- Ants.	1.	1.
Food Premises - W.C. direct.	1.	-.
- insufficient refuse store.	2.	1.
- ventilation.	1.	-.
- cleanliness.	3.	-.
Milk & Dairies Orders - Linewashing.	1.	-.
- general cleanliness.	1.	-.
- ventilation.	1.	-.
- structure.	1.	-.
- dirty equipment.	1.	-.
- use of domestic room.	1.	1.
Factories - cleanliness.	1.	1.
- sanitary accommodation.	3.	-.
Shops - sanitary conveniences.	2.	1.
Miscellaneous.	42.	17.
Totals.	503.	269.

Of the items outstanding in the foregoing table a large number are in hand by contractors; where the number "remedied" exceeds that "noted" it is due to some outstanding from 1945 having been done in 1946.

IV. HOUSING.

It has again not been possible nor opportune to make detailed inspection of dwellings with a view to extensive repair work or demolition. The continued restriction of labour and materials has made it necessary to confine requirements to the essential matters connected with nuisances or dangerous conditions. In one instance a house became vacant and the house was in such a condition that a Demolition Order was made but operation has been suspended.

The urgent need of the moment is still more houses. In the course of the year 20 prefabricated bungalows of the "Arcon" type were completed and occupied and the site was prepared for the erection early in 1947 of 30 of the aluminium type. Site works were carried out and construction of permanent brick houses was commenced at Hillfield and Weaver Road sites.

Although the clearance and reconditioning programme in connection with existing houses must of necessity be further delayed it would seem advisable to consider before long a detailed survey and inspection of housing accommodation. By this means the needs of the district for replacements and relief of overcrowding, together with requirements for ordinary purposes, can be more accurately assessed.

With regard to overcrowding it would seem that the standard of the Housing Act 1936 is too low, taking into account as it does all the room in the house and disregarding persons under one year of age. It is in the sleeping accommodation that most families find the greatest difficulty, and although not legally counted babies under one year of age have to sleep somewhere and many rooms are too small to accommodate a bedstead and cot.

V. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of "notifiable diseases" were visited as soon as possible after notification; in the instance of measles and whooping cough a leaflet is sent to parents advising on isolation and exclusion of contacts from school. Where necessary the disinfection of bedrooms and bedding was carried, the latter being usually removed to the Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection. Similar treatment is carried out in cases of death or removal to sanatoria of tuberculous persons. It was necessary to refer one instance of carelessness on the part of a tuberculous person to the County Medical Officer.

The Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme has continued to operate, the County Council accepting financial responsibility for children under 5 years of age. Every opportunity is taken to encourage parents to have children immunised.

VI. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, MILK SUPPLY.

Records show that there are 17 cowkeepers in the district and several of these are licensed by the County Council as "Accredited Producers". Revision of the register of milk sellers was commenced, it being found that many persons are no longer engaged in this type of business. Three new dairy buildings were brought into use during the year; in one case there has been the greatest difficulty in securing service by gas or electricity for the purpose of lighting and for heating water for cleansing purposes.

Pressure of work prevented as great a number of samples being taken as I had hoped and intended. The following table shows the samples taken together with the results :-

Ten samples milk were taken and were submitted for biological and bacteriological examination; one sample was spoiled in transit to the laboratory.

Tuberculin Tested. 1. Satisfactory methylene blue test.
Bacterial count - 7,600 per c.c.

Tuberculin Tested
(Pasteurised). 1. Satisfactory methylene blue and
phosphatase tests. B.Coli absent
in 100 c.c.

Pasteurised (not sold
under designation). 2. Satisfactory methylene blue and
phosphatase tests. B.Coli absent
in 100 c.c.

Accredited (not sold
under designation). 2. Satisfactory methylene blue test.
B.Coli absent in 100 c.c.

Ordinary. 3. B.Coli absent in 100 c.c. Bacterial
count in one 9,700; count not done
in two cases owing to oversight at
laboratory.

All samples were negative for Tuberculosis.

There are approximately 27 retailers of milk on the register. The following licences, issued by the Local Authority, were in force during the year:-

Dealer's Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested".	1.
Supplementary Dealer's Licence - "Tuberculin Tested".	2.
Dealer's Licence - "Pasteurised".	1.
Dealer's Licence - "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)".	1.

VII. BAKEHOUSES.

There are 15 bakehouses on the register. The reconstruction of one premises, with provision of modern gas ovens, was carried out during the year.

VIII. SHOPS ACT 1934.

There were no complaints in connection with ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences, in the shops in the district numbering approximately 200. As a result of observation attention was requested to two conveniences. It is intended, as time will allow, to survey all the shops in the area in the matters with which the Sanitary Authority is concerned.

IX. FACTORIES.

At one bakehouse factory, after considerable delay due to controls and difficulty in obtaining materials, reconstruction was carried out. The work included the provision of separate cloakroom, washing, and W.C. facilities for both sexes. One factory was closed and the site cleared for housing purposes during the year. Three references were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories in connection with sanitary accommodation. One was in connection with the factory now closed and referred to above; in the second case the matter of reconditioning the convenience was taken up with the occupier and was in hand at the end of the year; in the third case the occupier was asked to consider the provision of accommodation on the premises when certain alterations are carried out, there being accommodation available across the road at premises occupied by the same firm. As also in the case of housing repairs it is most difficult to get work done in these times within a reasonable period owing to labour and material difficulties. One notice of "Outworkers" was received during the year.

X. WATER SUPPLY.

The system of regular sampling of the water supply at a consumer's tap has continued. Three samples were taken and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination; reports were satisfactory.

XI. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The one trailer caravan licensed for use as a dwelling was removed during the year, and no further units were set up in the district.

XII. OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There were no complaints in connection with the Tannery and Fellmongery during the year. Periodic treatment was carried out at both premises during the year for the destruction of rats and mice.

XIII. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are now no premises of this character in the district and there has been no occasion for action in connection with the two premises previously used.

XIV. CANAL BOATS.

No complaints were received and no inspections were made.

XV. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It was necessary during the year to warn the Manager of the County Council Cooking Depot informally as to the emission of an excessive amount of smoke. This seems to be due mainly to the quality of fuel available.

XVI. SCHOOLS.

No complaints have been received as to the sanitary condition of schools. There was no occasion to close any of the schools on account of infectious disease, and I have continued the practice of advising Head Teachers of the incidence of notifiable diseases.

XVII. LICENSED PREMISES.

Drainage alterations and improvements were carried out at one hotel. The Old Town Hall was inspected and reported upon to the Licensing Bench; conditions were unsatisfactory from a sanitary point of view and the structure is not as it might be. The premises are no longer licensed as a place for public entertainment. Inspection of some of the public houses and hotels was made and I hope from time to time to make regular visits to all such premises concerning sanitary conditions.

XVIII. VERMIN.

No further complaint has been received from the Council House which was infested with crickets and which was treated last year with DDT powder. There has been no serious complaint of other vermin but there seems to be a tendency for an increase in the presence of ants in Council Houses.

XIX. ERADICATION OF BUGS.

Six premises were treated during the year, including four Council Houses. "Zaldecide" and "Vermicine" insecticides containing DDT were used and the premises concerned are still under observation.

When visiting applicants for Council Houses the possibility of bug infestation is taken into account and where thought necessary treatment of belongings will be carried out before removal to a Council House. With the approval of the Council a limited amount of treatment is carried for occupiers of infested premises, whilst the owner is held responsible for charges in treatment of unoccupied premises. Treatment is carried out by direct labour under my supervision.

XX. RODENT CONTROL.

One part-time operative works under my supervision in this work. There was no occasion to take formal action during the year. The Council Tips are subjected to regular treatment, as also the Sewage Works. In the latter part of the year the systematic treatment of the public sewers was undertaken, all accessible manholes being pre-baited and where necessary poisoned. The baits used in treatment have been Sausage Rusk and Bread Mash, which have been poisoned with Zinc Phosphide, Red Squill, or Arsenic.

Number of Council premises treated during the year - Tips etc.	5.
Number of Private Annual Contracts in force during the year.	8.
Number of Short Term Private Contracts in force during the year.	16.
Number of Premises treated in year - by Council.	29.
- by Occupiers.	14.
Number of premises visited in survey and treatment.	49.
Number of premises showing no evidence upon survey.	6.

XXI. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933.

There were 19 Slaughtermen's Licences in force during the year. No notifications of slaughter of animals were received.

XXII. PAIL CLOSETS.

Progress in substitution of water closets for pail closets was disappointing owing to the uncertainty of materials and labour. Five closets were added to the list as a result of observation. Informal arrangements were made with owners in connection with the substitution of water closets in 16 cases but only in 9 was the work done in the year. In four instances where substitution was not practicable or desirable the closets were reconditioned and brought up to a good standard as pail closets; in one of these cases the work was done by the Council in default and the cost was recovered from the Owner. Where appropriate in the case of substitution of water closets the Council has contributed to the cost, not exceeding one half of the total cost.

The following is a summary of the position at the end of 1946 :-

Insanitary and unuseable.	1.
In connection with Unfit Houses.	40.
Beyond reach of sewers - extension of sewers impracticable.	9.
- extension of sewers practicable.	8.
Within reach of sewers but premises not drained.	10.
At premises where outfalls of drains needs investigation.	4.
Suitable for substitution of water closets.	29.
	<hr/>
	101.

Total existing at beginning of 1946.	112.
Additions to list.	5.
Pail closets abolished.	7.
W.C's substituted in year.	9.
Nett reduction in year.	11.
Total existing at end of 1946.	101.

XXIII. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938.

The two licensed slaughterhouses in the district have not been used during the year, all butcher's meat being prepared and distributed from Crewe. The wartime control by which private premises were closed and slaughtering being restricted to central premises under the Control of the Ministry of Food has continued. The principle of "Centralised Slaughtering" is one to be encouraged but I feel that each local government area should have its own abattoir and that this should be under the management and control of the local authority. There has been no occasion to complain in connection with the transport of meat, but I would like to see a uniform type of

vehicle and standard dress for those engaged in handling the meat.

It has not been possible to proceed with the intended improvement of the Pork Butcher's premises to which I referred in my report for last year but the existing accommodation was improved to a reasonable degree.

An effort was made to secure amendment in the procedure whereby certain food articles, being unfit for human consumption, are returned to the wholesaler by the retailer. The Ministry of Food however are satisfied with the procedure and to minimise the danger of unsound food finding its way to the domestic consumer after being found unfit I now require the retailer to obtain from the wholesaler or his carrier a receipt before parting with the goods; the receipts are returnable to me as evidence of disposal.

There have been frequent requests from retailers for the examination of suspected foods and the following is a statement of articles examined :-

Food examined and found fit for human consumption:-

Soups 195 cans. Cheese 5 ozs. Pilchards 3 cans.
Dried Milk 864 cans. Evaporated Milk 81 cans. Salmon 1 can

Total estimated weight. 6 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.

Food examined and found unfit for human consumption :-

97 Cans Evap. Milk.	228 cans Meat Soup.
2 lbs Oats.	2 cans Fish Paste.
4 cans Sausage Meat.	2 cans Marmalade.
1 can Shrimps.	7 cans Beetroot.
9 cans Sardines.	50 cans Fruit.
1 can Herrings.	1 jar Mincemeat.
29 cans Peas.	1 jar Malted Food.
2 cans Brisling.	124 cans Drie Milk.
17 cans Stewed Steak.	5 cans Luncheon Meat.
20 cans Pilchards.	1 cwt Dates.
16 cans Beans.	3 cans Vegetables.
12 cans Salmon.	1 can Mackerel.
1 jar Jam.	1 can Treacle.
8 cans Carrorts.	24 lbs Raisins.
2 cans Meat & Veg. Ration.	7 cans Potted Meat.
3 jars Sauces, Pickles etc.	2½ lbs Tea.
3 lbs 11 ozs. Cheese.	20 lbs Sausages.
1 lb. Semolina.	151 lbs Dried Peas.
43 lbs Peanut Butter.	112 lbs Carrots.
54 lbs Bacon.	3 lbs Fruit Cake.
5 stones Wet Fish (Whiting).	3½ lbs Butter.
1 can Tomatoes.	6 jars Pickled Cabbage.

Total estimated weight. 11 cwt. 0 qr. 20 lbs.

Total estimated weight of food examined. 17 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.

The provisions of the Food and Drugs Act concerning adulteration are administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr Stacey Hallard, Chief Inspector, Weights and Measure Department, for the following statement of samples analysed in the Urban Area during the year :-

Name of Sample.	No. Obtained.	No. adulterated or not up to recognised standard of quality.
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Butter.	1.	
Cooking Fat.	1.	
Cheese.	2.	
Whisky.	1.	

Cod Liver Oil Emulsion.	1.	
Cakes.	1.	
Glycerine.	1.	
Canned Evap.Milk.	1.	
Margarine.	1.	
Milk.	14.	3.
Rum.	1.	1.
Rum - White.	1.	
Boiled Sweets.	1.	
Totals.	<u>27.</u>	<u>4.</u>

The following are details of the samples which were below standard :-

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Milk. | 42.6% deficient in fat. | Seller cautioned. Deficiency due to seller failing to keep milk stirred. |
| 2. Milk. | 32 % deficient in fat. | Seller cautioned. see No.3. |
| 3. Milk. | 3 % deficient in fat. | Sample was taken in course of delivery to seller of No. 2. No action. |
| 4. Rum. | 17.5 % of excess water. | Seller fined £10 and 10/6d costs. |

In concluding this report I would like to assure the Council of my continued efforts to serve the community of Nantwich with efficiency in the betterment of environmental conditions, and the maintenance of those sections of the Public Health Service with which the Sanitary Inspector is concerned.

Yours faithfully,



Sanitary Inspector.

